

**Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy
Charlottesville, Virginia
Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2005**

- Call to Order:** Chris Harrison, Chair of the Council, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Harrison welcomed Council members and guests and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.
- Members Present:** Lisa DuVal, Scott DuVal, Terry Grimes, Chris Harrison, Ward Marsteller, Irene Rebholz, Lisa Ritchie, Mark Stevens, Margaret Walsh
- Members Absent:** Vicky Fisher, Victoria Huber, Mark Lester, Byron Stith
- Guests Present:** Bernie Franks, Rufus Ingram, Bonnie Pate, Monroe Spencer, Steven Traubert, Karen Wilson, Dave Zoellner, Abdi Wehelie
- Public Comment:** There was no public comment offered.
- Approval of May 12, 2005 Minutes:** The following changes were noted to the May 12, 2005 minutes:
- Reference to “page ten” changed to “page two” in the Minutes section;
 - Reference Human Rights Training was changed to reflect that a human rights discussion was facilitated by Kristin Cooper;
 - References to “objectives” in the Current Goals section were changed to Focus Areas.
- Margaret Walsh made a MOTION to accept the minutes as corrected. Terry Grimes seconded the MOTION. The MOTION passed with unanimous vote.
- PAIMI Review Team:** Colleen Miller noted that the members of the PAIMI Review Team had requested time on the agenda to speak with Council members.
- Training – Work Incentives:** Monroe Spencer, a Disability Benefits Specialist, provided training on the Ticket to Work program. Mr. Spencer explained how the Ticket to Work program works and how a Disability Benefits Specialist assists in the process. Steven Traubert, Staff Attorney with the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA), supplemented Mr. Spencer’s training with information regarding VOPA’s assistance to Social Security beneficiaries.

Lunch:	The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. During the lunch break, PAIMI Review Team members spoke with the Council members. Prior to the meeting reconvening at 12:50 p.m., Sherry Confer presented Margaret Walsh with a certificate in appreciation of her term on the Council.
Nominations:	Sherry Confer reminded Council that it is at the August meeting that Council members make nominations for officers for the next year. The nominations presented to the Council were for all current officers to continue: Chris Harrison as Chair, Irene Rebholz as Vice Chair, and Scott DuVal as Secretary. Margaret Walsh made a MOTION to accept the nominations as presented. Lisa Ritchie seconded the MOTION and it passed with unanimous Council vote.
Board of Directors Update:	Barbara Barrett, past Chair of the Board, provided an update from the July 19, 2005 Board meeting and provided Council members with the Board meeting dates (January 20, April 25, July 20, and September 26) for 2006. Lisa Ritchie requested clarification of expense reimbursement for Council members to attend Board meetings. Colleen Miller stated that this is an issue that has been brought before the Executive Committee of the Board and has been forwarded to the Board's Policy Committee for review. Ms. Ritchie made a MOTION to request the Board's Policy Committee consider the reimbursement of Council members for expenses. Irene Rebholz seconded the MOTION. The MOTION passed with unanimous vote.
Executive Director's Update:	Colleen Miller shared that the packet included the following reports: Progress on Priorities, Litigation, and Financial. Ms. Miller noted that VOPA is in the process of an agreement with Adult Protective Services which will enable VOPA to obtain a report of every incident of suspected abuse they receive. Additionally, Ms. Miller shared that VOPA Managing Attorney Gary Conover and Investigator Peter Widel had recently presented at the Criminal Justice Command College in Charlottesville and reminded the PAIMI Council that the recommendation for this outreach was from this Council. Ms. Miller summarized the litigation and financial reports. Ms. Miller further noted that Dee Vance had resigned from VOPA to pursue a position as a Special Education teacher. VOPA is currently in the process of hiring an individual who will support the Councils. Ms. Miller noted the addition of two Disability Rights Advocates – Julie Triplett and Brenda Coleman. Ms. Miller also noted that the PAIMI Review Team would rejoin the meeting and, subsequent to the Council meeting, would offer an Exit Interview. Ms. Miller noted that Council members were welcome to stay for that meeting.

PAIMI Annual Report:

Ms. Confer asked Council members for suggestion on different methods of preparing the semi-annual and annual performance reports. She stressed that the report should be the work of the Council and not the Council's approval of a staff-written report. Margaret Walsh suggested allocating appropriate time on the November meeting agenda to discuss the report. Ms. Miller suggested that legal rights training be omitted from that meeting to allow enough time to appropriately discuss the report.

FY 06 Priority Planning:

Ms. Confer distributed a copy of the Goals and Focus Areas for Fiscal Year 2006 as approved by the Board. She asked Council members to e-mail her with any suggestions for Objectives. Staff will begin developing Objectives for each of the Focus Areas the week of August 15 and they will be presented to the Board on September 20, 2005.

Membership:

Ms. Confer distributed a copy of the revised Council Interest Questionnaire. She noted that revisions included an additional question and a checklist to determine how the interested individual would best fit the Council.

Other Business – Meeting Dates:

The Council set the following dates for the 2006 Meetings:
February 16, 2006 (Richmond)
May 18, 2006 (Charlottesville)
August 17, 2006 (location to be determined)
November 16, 2006 (Charlottesville)

There being no further business, Irene Rebholz made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Ritchie seconded the MOTION and it passed by unanimous vote. The next meeting of the PAIMI Advisory Council will be November 3, 2005, in Charlottesville.

FINAL MINUTES:

November 3, 2005